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(R.1.132)
w/ 1 mo. ext. of time
7-14-03
L. Spruell

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s) : John Marshall GAFFNEY et al.
Serial No. : 10/087,702
Filed : February 28, 2002
For : OFFSET LITHOGRAPHIC PRINTING PRESS
Examiner : Stephen R. Funk
Art Unit : 2854

Lee OK

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

Date: 7/3/03

Signature: R. Hassan

AMENDMENT

S I R:

This paper is responsive to the Office Action of March 3, 2003. I hereby amend the above-captioned application as set forth below.

RECEIVED
JUL 10 2003
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 9, the paragraph starting on line 23 has been amended as follows:

Furthermore, the printing blanket 18 has a cylindrical outer surface 40 which is continuous and free of gaps to promote smooth rolling engagement with the cylindrical outer surface of the printing plate 41 on the plate cylinder 22. The absence of gaps in the smooth cylindrical outer surface 40 of the printing blanket 18 eliminates bumps or vibrations as compared to having a gap which rolls into and out of engagement with the surface of the printing plate 41 on the plate cylinder 22. The elimination of bumps or vibrations tends to minimize smearing of the ink pattern as it is applied to the surface 40 of the printing blanket 18 by the printing plate 41 on the plate cylinder 22.